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New Buffalo Times

NEWS
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Thursday, September 4, 2025

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Lake Michigan College President Dr. Trevor Kubatzke announces retirement

Board of trustees begins presidential search with support from The Pauly Group
Dr. Trevor Kubatzke, President of Lake Michigan College (LMC), has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2026. Dr. Kubatzke is providing early notice to allow the board of trustees time to develop a plan to find his successor.

Dr. Kubatzke has served as president of Lake Michigan College since 2017, leading the institution through a period of significant growth and transformation. Under his leadership, LMC has strengthened its position as a cornerstone educational institution serving Berrien and Van Buren counties.

“After much reflection and with a profound sense of gratitude, I am writing to formally announce my retirement as President of Lake Michigan College,” Dr. Kubatzke stated in his letter to the Board of Trustees. “This decision does not come lightly, as my time here has been among the most meaningful and rewarding chapters of my professional and personal life.”

Notable Achievements During Dr. Kubatzke's Tenure

During his presidency, Dr. Kubatzke has overseen numerous initiatives that have enhanced the college's impact on the community:

Strengthened Regional Partnerships: Expanded dual enrollment programs with local high schools, developed apprenticeships with area employers, and enhanced collaborations with four-year institutions throughout Berrien and Van Buren counties

Campus Modernization: Led investments in new technologies and learning environments while revitalizing campus facilities

Student Success Initiatives: Implemented new academic pathways and expanded support services with a consistent focus on student success and well-being

Pandemic Response: Successfully navigated the college through the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining educational continuity and student support

Dr. Kubatzke reflected on his most meaningful experiences as president: “The most meaningful moments for me have never been about statistics or milestones. They have been found in the laughter echoing through the halls during Welcome Week, the determination in the eyes of a returning adult learner, the heartfelt conversations with faculty about teaching and learning, and the triumphs of students walking across the stage at commencement.”

Presidential Search Process

The Board of Trustees has retained The Pauly Group of

Chicago to assist in the presidential search process. The Pauly Group is recognized as one of the leading academic search consulting firms in the nation, specializing exclusively in senior administrative searches for community and technical colleges.

“We are committed to conducting a thorough and inclusive search process to find the next leader who will continue building upon Lake Michigan College's strong foundation,” said Joan Smith, chair of the LMC Board of Trustees. “Dr. Kubatzke's early announcement demonstrates his continued commitment to the institution and provides us with the time needed to identify the best candidate to lead LMC into the future.”

Looking Forward

Dr. Kubatzke will continue serving in his role through Dec. 31, 2026, ensuring a smooth transition for the incoming president. He expressed his ongoing commitment to community college education and indicated his intention to continue supporting the institution in various capacities after retirement.

“While I look forward to retirement and the new adventures that await, I will never be far from the mission that has defined my career,” Dr. Kubatzke said. “I remain committed to community college education and will continue to support and champion this great institution in any way I can.”

Lake Michigan College is a two-year, accredited, nonprofit community college with its main campus in Benton Harbor, and additional instructional sites in Allegan, Niles and South Haven, Michigan.

LMC serves as a cultural center, regional economic partner, and a leader in innovation. It features the largest conference and performance center in the region and The Fab Lab, which is a high-tech, hands-on makerspace where creativity meets cutting-edge tools, empowering students and the community to design, prototype, and innovate.

Established in 1946 as Benton Harbor Junior College, LMC is also the region's leader in high quality, affordable higher education, offering associate degrees, certificates, and transfer programs in more than 80 fields of study, including business, health sciences, manufacturing, wine and viticulture, culinary, and more. LMC offers national-title-winning intercollegiate athletic teams, on-campus housing, and a wealth of extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations to create an authentic college experience close to home.

For more information, visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu. —

STAFF REPORTS

Me, I get disturbed by my view of things, not by what actually happened.

— Dino N. Fatouros

Local
Government
Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

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THREE OAKS

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Meets on the 2nd Monday
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VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday
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Meets on the 2nd Friday
of each month at 1PM

Berrien County Health Department
spotlights clinic and prevention services
during Sexual Health Awareness Month

The Berrien County Health Department is reminding community members about its comprehensive Sexual Health Clinic services and prevention education as part of Sexual Health Awareness Month.

Over the past several years, reported cases of sexually transmitted infections, or STIs, have risen across Berrien County. This includes chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.

Regular checkups and testing remain the most effective ways to catch infections early and reduce the spread in the community.

BCHD’s Sexual Health Clinic provides supportive, nonjudgmental services, offering both in-person and virtual telehealth appointments. A full spectrum of services is available to support community health and wellness, including:

- Routine wellness visits, including pelvic, breast and testicular exams;
- Pap tests;
- STI screenings and treatment;
- Rapid HIV testing and counseling;
- Immunizations, including for human papillomavirus;
- Pregnancy testing and counseling;
- Birth control options, including oral contraceptives, vaginal rings, patches, implants and injectables.

These services are offered at lower rates than other local health care organizations, and most types of insurance are accepted.

“Our Sexual Health Clinic provides an accessible and supportive atmosphere for individuals seeking preventive care or treatment,” BCHD Clinical and Community Services Supervisor Dionne Rigozzi said. “Whether it’s a wellness exam or infection screening, we want to make it easier for residents to prioritize their health.

“Regular exams and testing are critical, especially if you are sexually active, have a new partner or if you believe you may

have been exposed to an STI.”

Clinic appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at BCHD’s Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and the same hours Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday at its Niles office, 1205 N. Front St. Later appointments are available 1-6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Benton Harbor location and on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Niles location.

Walk-in services are offered 1-4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the Benton Harbor location and 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the Niles location.

Telehealth appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.bchdsexualhealthclinic.com, or call 269-926-7121.

In addition to providing care through its Sexual Health Clinic, BCHD supports long-term prevention strategies through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ Taking Pride in Prevention program.

TPIP provides both abstinence and contraception education to individuals ages 12-19.

The program’s goal is to reduce rates of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other STIs in Michigan. TPIP empowers young people to make informed choices and helps build community awareness around sexual health.

“Through TPIP, we reach youth early on with the tools, skills and knowledge they need to stay healthy,” BCHD Family Health Program Manager Miranda Bronicki-Dopp said.

“This program gives young people accurate information about prevention options and empowers them to take charge of their futures.” — STAFF REPORTS

*It takes 20 years to build a reputation
and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that,
you’ll do things differently.*
— Warren Buffett

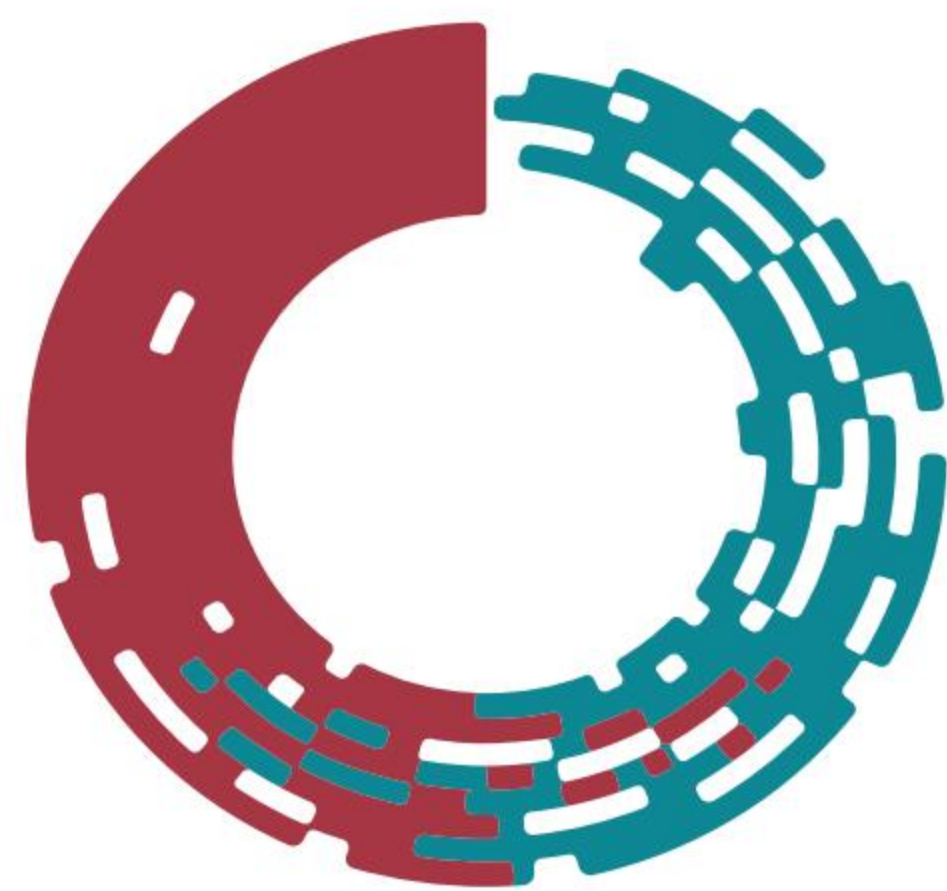


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New life for stained glass windows restoration proposal

A request to restore the over 80 stained glass windows at the historic courthouse in LaPorte appears to have regained momentum.

The LaPorte County Council on Aug. 25 unanimously voted to ask the LaPorte County Commissioners to reconsider their recent 2 to 1 decision against providing money to cover the estimated \$5,000 to \$14,000 cost of creating an inventory for the windows.

The motion was made by Randy Novak and seconded by Justin Kiel after they announced their support for the request.

"We'll find a way to find the funding if the commissioners reconsider it," Kiel said.

The commissioners turned down the request at a time when county government will be losing \$2 million or more annually due to statewide property tax reform signed into law by the governor in the spring.

Leigh Morris, a former LaPorte mayor, is asking for the money to create an inventory of the windows that includes a report on their condition and where each one ranks as a priority for restoring over a 10-year period.

Morris said the condition of the windows is not alarming, but they are getting to the point of needing restoration.

An expert review of the windows showed things like cracks and missing pieces of glass along with rotting in some of the frames.

"There's nothing absolutely drastic or threatening at the moment but it's on the way to that," he said.

Kiel said he agrees with Morris the windows are important to preserve.

"Those stained-glass windows in that courthouse are part of our collective heritage. There's never going to be another courthouse like that built ever again. That's the only one we got so it's worth making sure we maintain those things," he said. — **STAN MADDUX**



Work begins on baseball/softball fields upgrades

COMMUNITY ADVISED TO STAY AWAY FROM WORK ZONE

Work has begun on the baseball and softball fields at Oselka Park in the City of New Buffalo.

According to a city press release, the New Buffalo Area Recreational Authority (NBARA) received a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant program for upgrades to the baseball and softball field area. In partnership with the project, the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation (NBCEF) is turfing both fields. The work for this project began

early last week and is progressing on schedule, with work anticipated to be completed Oct. 1, 2025. During this time, the area around the fields will be a construction zone. The community is being asked to avoid the area "for the duration of the project," the release said.

"This will be a welcomed upgrade to our facilities and a result of what can be accomplished through fruitful partnerships. We understand that this is an exciting time and the community is anxious to see what's going on; however, we must ensure safety is a top priority," City Manager Darwin Watson said.

— **STAFF REPORTS**

COMMUNITY CHOIR INVITES NEW VOICES TO JOIN FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

A beloved community choir and program of the nonprofit School of American Music is welcoming new members for its 2025–26 season.

Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or someone who simply loves to sing, Harbor Country Singers offers a warm, inclusive space to make music, build friendships, and share the joy of song with the community.

A Meet and Greet for current and prospective members will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, in Harbert, Michigan. This informal gathering is a chance to meet director Maggie Martin, connect with fellow singers, and learn about the exciting season ahead.

Rehearsals for the annual Holiday Concert will take place every Tuesday from 6–7:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 7 through Dec. 2, with a final rehearsal Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator.

The choir will perform two festive community concerts: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts in Three Oaks.

Martin has been part of Harbor Country Singers since its founding in 2016, first as accompanist and later stepping into leadership in 2023. A classically trained pianist with more than 25 years of choral accompaniment experience, Martin is dedicated to creating a welcoming environment where singers of all levels can participate.

"Our choir is about joy, connection, and community," she said. "If you love to sing, there's a place for you here."

New singers are encouraged to attend the Meet and Greet on Sept. 23. For more information, text Martin at 734-730-1126 or email maggiemartinpiano@gmail.com. Learn more by visiting the School of American Music website at schoolofamericanmusic.com or by following SAM on Facebook.

Harbor Country Singers is proudly supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund. — **STAFF REPORTS**

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From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Since the 2024 season ended, the Chicago Bears have been busy almost every week, doing things to improve the product that will represent the Chicagoland area in 2025, in the National Football League.

New coaches, draft picks, free agents, working seriously on a new stadium, preseason victories, and next week, finally, the new season will begin.

The Bears have gone through some really tough times recently, and almost everybody connected to the team, and their legion of fans, seem optimistic.

Perhaps, they're doing things the right way this year.

There are surely a contingent of fans who need to see the improvement before they buy into it, and after being disappointed numerous times in the past, I understand where they are coming from, but personally I believe that the new coaching staff will put the team in position to win enough games to possibly make the playoffs.

The Bears are still thin at a couple of positions. The starting left tackle wasn't decided upon until recently and the defensive line and running back positions seem like they could use some help.

After being so busy most of the offseason, the last couple of weeks seem strangely quiet. No running back reinforcements, no definitive word on the left tackle, and the team was strangely silent as they watched Micah Parsons get traded from the Dallas Cowboys to their divisional rivals, the Green Bay Packers.

Parsons is a great player, and will make the Packers hard to beat this season, but I don't believe that his addition will result in a Super Bowl.

Because the Bears didn't make a play for Parsons, it got me to thinking.

Their head coach, Ben Johnson is really smart and really innovative. Could the Bears have a few tricks up their sleeve to take advantage of their perceived weakness? Could wide receiver D.J. Moore be a bigger threat out of the backfield than anyone imagined? Could the Bears still have three receivers and be able to leave both tight ends on the line occasionally to block the likes of Micah Parsons.

Will those same tight ends sometimes slip out into the flat to create mismatches and break off long runs after the catch? Has the defensive line performed well enough in practice that the asking price for Parsons was too high.

With any of our previous coaches, my answer would have been an emphatic no, but with this coach, anything is possible.

I'm still in kindergarten thinking about what the Bears may do, but our coaching staff all have their doctorate degrees. Monday night against the Vikings, we will begin to see how this season is going to play out. If the division is too tough and/or the Bears need more quality players, we may have to wait until next season to get our answers, but the way I see it, the Bears will be fighting for playoff victories and Super Bowl appearances in the very near future.

Bruce Lee said, "I'm not in this world to live up to your expectations and you're not in this world to live up to mine."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Last minute win for Raiders in season opener

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders opened the high school football season with a late in the game come from behind victory.

The Raiders on the road defeated the Twin City Sharks 20-18 Thursday, Aug. 28.

"It was a good battle," said Raiders Head Coach Matt Johnson.

Nobody scored until early in the second half after the Raiders recovered a fumble on the kick-off.

The Raiders drove the ball close to the goal line and scored when sophomore quarterback Colten Lijewski on a short run made it into the end zone.

The Sharks quickly struck back with a touchdown, but the Raiders went up 14-6 on a 20-yard run by Lijewski.

The Raiders later fell behind 18-14 but took the ball on their last series of downs on offense from mid-field to the five-yard line.

Cooper Lynch then caught a pass in the end zone from a scrambling Lijewski to put the Raiders back ahead with just over a minute left on the clock.

The Sharks failed in their comeback attempt on a failed fourth down passing

play.

Johnson said he was impressed with how the team with just three players having significant playing time at the varsity level coming into the season never gave up.

"To play against a physical, athletic Twin City team and to pull it out showed our kids are competitive," he said.

Lijewski rushed for 196 yards on 29 carries while completing three passes for 15 yards.

On defense, Trevor James helped lead the way with eight solo tackles and a quarterback sack.

Drew Bowen had seven total tackles along with an interception and fumble recovery.

Lucas Forker made seven total tackles, including four for lost yardage, and recorded two quarterback sacks.

Nick Wolfe had four tackles and a quarterback sack.

The Raiders play at home against Calvin Christian High School from Grandville on Friday, Sept. 5, at River Valley High School.



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I like to stand right in front of my opponent. I think it makes for an exciting fight.

— Canelo Alvarez

Guests gather by the tents outside the gallery



Jay and Barbara Zoern display their mid-century and modern burdhouses and charcuterie boards



Sue Rosengard of Three Oaks stands by her jewelry



Annual 'Outsiders' art show given 'Freedom'-filled send-off

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The whimsical, out-of-the-ordinary artwork came out of the woodwork for what Judith Racht, owner of Judith Racht Gallery in Harbert, said is the "last hurrah" for the 29th annual Outsiders Outside Art Show Friday through Sunday, Aug. 29-31.

Seeing as how the show invites those who haven't received any professional training to show off their artistic prowess, it made sense that this year's theme was "Freedom."

"Freedom to be an insider or an outsider, as long as you're good that's what matters, if you're trained or untrained - good is good," Racht said.

This year's show had 40 dealers with more than one artist, so Racht said that there were "hundreds of artists" who had worked displayed.

Artwork included paintings, woodcuts, sculptures, and fiber art, created by artists who use many non-traditional materials to make their art.

This year's show featured the first international artist: Christer Hedlund from Stockholm, Sweden.

Hedlund, who paints with oils and mixed media and paints large paintings, was displaying his latest series, "Women."

"I had a good friend who's a blacksmith that does these thin metals of steel and we punch out different

patterns in it...So I do the painting and start messing with it and put different patterns on it and suddenly, I'm happy with it - I'm done," he said.

Having only been seriously pursuing his art for three and half years, Hedlund said his children encouraged him to, after 30 years, sell one of his companies after 30 years.

He never meant to do expositions; however, after 40 paintings started stacking up around his house, his wife said, "you're going to start doing shows." Now, he does seven to eight exhibitions a year, with



Christie Chew-Wallace from C.C.'s Art Garage and Gallery displays her black cat-themed jean jacket



Guests enjoy artwork from The Art Farm

Fred Story and Larry Zenk perform Friday night



Stockholm, Sweden-based Christer Hedlund stands by one of his Women pieces



the Outsiders Outside Art Show being his second one in the states. So far this year, he's done three to four in Sweden, and he'll be heading to Spain this fall.

Hedlund's previous series focused on different periods, such as the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Next, he'll do "Grumpy Old Men," some of whom will be sitting on park benches with grumpy expressions on their faces.

"There's a lot to old grumpy men's faces," he said. John Liberty was displaying his acrylic, abstract paintings, such as "Extrovert Meets Introvert:

Love Ensues." The painting, Liberty said, features a splash of pink mixed with red, which represents the woman – the Extrovert – on the upper left corner and splash of blue mixed with green, which represents the man – the Introvert.

One morning, he woke and thought, "I want to throw paint around."

Liberty sought out a place where he could do just that, with the idea that he didn't want to take a class but wanted instructors around to merely supervise. He displayed a painting at Gracie's, his clothing store in Evanston, Illinois, and was "shocked" when it sold within a day.

"I just wanted to do to my own thing," he said.

Before she was hosting her Labor Day weekend show at her gallery, which is in the former two-room Harbert School and that she's had for 42 years, Racht worked for John Wilson, a Michigan travel art salesman who was the founder of the United States' first international contemporary art exposition that's now known as Expo Chicago.

The show fascinated Racht because she "could see so much under one roof and that was an international show, so you saw dealers from Spain and Russia and all over the world."

"So, it was really a wonderful experience," she said.



Whimsical artwork was on display alongside the tents



John Liberty stands by his 'Extrovert Meets Introvert Love Ensues' abstract painting



Guests enjoy beverages at the Michiana Humane Society tent



The Rumley Oil Pull Tractor makes an appearance during the Parade of Power



A King Midget car rides through the Parade of Power



Rob Brza works in the blacksmith shop



Guests view the John Deeres on display



Clara Kitschard scoops out popcorn



For Pete's Sake performs at Hesston Sunday afternoon

A weekend of steam-filled fun at 'Steam and Power Show'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Black smoke filled the air and train whistles could be heard loud and clear throughout the grounds of Hesston Steam Museum in LaPorte, Indiana, during its annual Steam and Power Show Friday through Monday, Aug. 29-31.

Guests could witness a 60-inch blade cutting logs into lumber at the Hesston Steam Sawmill, which was built in 1900 by the Hill-Curtis Machinery Company in Kalamazoo. Visitors could also hop aboard a train on three railroads: The Hesston and Galena Narrow Gauge Railroad, Vintage Miniature Railroad and The Craftmans Railroad. At the D. Graham & Son Blacksmith Shop, a blacksmith was forging handcrafted, useful objects, which are available in the Depot Store.

In the afternoon, visitors could watch John Deeres, Farmall tractors and other engines make their way down the museum's main drag during the Parade of Power.

The Hesston Steam and Power Show is presented by the LaPorte County Historical Steam Society, a not-for-profit organization/501c3 corporation.

Next up at Hesston is its Ghost Train event, which will run through weekends in October. A full list of events can be found at www.hesston.org.



Volunteers put on a threshing demonstration



Lumber is sawed with a 60-inch blade at the Hesston Steam Sawmill



The Minneapolis makes an appearance in the Parade of Power



A Super 77 Diesel Vegetable participates in the Parade of Power



A 1960 Toro rides in the Parade of Power



Trains pull up at Hesston Junction

Flu clinics being offered in southwest Michigan

Corewell Health, in collaboration with Lakeland Care Network, is offering influenza (flu) vaccines to adults 18 years and older at drive-thru and walk-in clinics throughout Southwest Michigan. Vaccination clinics will be held during the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Corewell Health Care Center Royalton, 3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph
- Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at New Buffalo Fire Department, 35 N. Harrison St., New Buffalo
- Thursday, Sept. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Hartford Fire Department, 436 East Main, Hartford
- Friday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Corewell Health Care Center Royalton, 3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph
- Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 651 Pheonix St., South Haven
- Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at North Berrien Fire and Rescue, 170 Washington St., Coloma
- Thursday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals – Watervliet, 400 Medical Park Drive, Watervliet
- Friday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Joseph Today, 301 State St., St. Joseph
- Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Corewell Health Dowagiac Primary Care Clinic, 520 Main St., Dowagiac
- Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Bridgman

American Legion 4241 Legion St., Bridgman

- Wednesday, Oct. 1, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Royalton Township Fire Station, 5385 Scottdale Road, St. Joseph
- Wednesday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Corewell Health Center for Wellness, 133 W. Main St., Benton Harbor (walk-in clinic)
- Thursday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 2001 Niles Ave., St. Joseph
- Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at New Heights Laundry Hub, 2121 Red Arrow Highway, Benton Harbor (walk-in clinic)
- Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 2p.m. to 5 p.m., at Chikaming Township Fire Station, 13535 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert

Appointments are not needed to receive the vaccine. Patients can remain in their car at the drive-thru locations while the shot is administered. Nurses will administer the trivalent flu vaccine, which protects against three different main groups of influenza Type A and B viruses. For those age 65 years and older, a high-dose flu vaccine will be available.

As most health insurance programs cover the cost of the vaccine, patients should bring their insurance card with them. If paying at the time of vaccination, the cost is \$37 for the trivalent flu vaccine, or \$74 for the high-dose vaccine (cash or check only; credit cards are not accepted). Individuals will not be turned away due to inability to pay.

For more information about flu vaccines or to inquire about hosting a flu clinic at a local worksite, call 269-927-5154.

— STAFF REPORTS

ANOTHER POT SHIPMENT SEIZED ON TOLL ROAD

Another large marijuana shipment has been intercepted by police on the Indiana Toll Road in LaPorte County.

Two men from out of state are now facing charges.

A LaPorte County sheriff's deputy on Aug. 23 stopped an SUV for traveling over the speed limit near Rolling Prairie.

During the traffic stop, police said the officer spotted four large suitcases inside the vehicle rented on the west coast.

Feeling the driver wasn't being totally truthful with his answers during questioning, police said a K-9 dog came out and detected the presence of drugs inside the vehicle.

Inside the suitcases opened during a search were vacuum sealed packages of marijuana weighing a total of 120 pounds, police said.

Tony Green, Jr. from Georgia and his passenger, Rovell Thomas of Mississippi, were charged in LaPorte Circuit Court with Level 5 felony dealing in marijuana.

They could face anywhere from a one to six-year sentence.

Police said the investigation shows they flew to Seattle, Washington, to pick up the vehicle and deliver the marijuana to Virginia Beach along the east coast.

The bust was made the same week 1,400 pounds of marijuana were discovered inside a rented box truck on the Indiana Toll Road west of the LaPorte exit. — STAN MADDUX

OBITUARIES



Daniel Curtis Lutton 1965-2025

Daniel Curtis Lutton, 59, of Three Oaks, died suddenly in Lakeland St. Joseph hospital, September 1, 2025.

His life began November 10, 1965 in Peoria, Illinois, the youngest of three children born to Barbara and Richard Lutton.

Dan was a proud member of the deaf community and graduated from the Berrien Springs High School. He was a long-time resident of Three Oaks. Dan was an avid

Chicago Bears fan. He could talk forever about NASCAR. Dan made a friend in everyone he met.

Daniel will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his mother Barbara Lutton of Three Oaks; one sister, Cindy Gast of Bridgman; one brother, Mike (Diane) Lutton of Kingsport, Tennessee; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father; one brother-in-law, John Gast; one nephew, Joshua Lutton.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, September 6, 2025 in Wagner Family Funeral Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. For a visitation from 2:00 p.m. until the memorial service at 4:00 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funeral Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.



Coasting along

PHOTO BY JIM MOHAN AT NEW BUFFALO BEACH

Not every sunset needs to blaze across the sky. Sometimes the beauty is in the hush — in colors that whisper instead of shout. A muted sunset can be just as breathtaking, reminding us that even softness has its own kind of brilliance.

Sunset Series by New Buffalo Times: Inspired by Light & Science

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS NEW BUFFALO TIMES • SUNSET SERIES

The sun sets on all of us — wherever we are in the world. But there’s something about pausing to watch it that feels both universal and deeply personal. Here in New Buffalo, we’ve been captivated by the light over Lake Michigan, and we know many of you have your own favorite sunset views — whether it’s right here at home or from a far-off shore. We’re inviting you to share your most breathtaking sunset photos with us. Each week, our Sunset Series will feature one image and a short reflection — a chance to pause together and appreciate the simple, stunning magic of day’s end. Send your photo, the location, and a few words about what it meant to you to: info@NewBuffaloTimes.com with subject “Sunset Series”. We welcome submissions from everywhere — with a soft spot for those taken right here in New Buffalo and along the lakeshore. Let’s create a shared gallery of light — a reminder that the sun’s setting is not an ending, but part of the rhythm we all live by. — KRISTIN FATOUROS

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3-5PM

BITES

\$1 OYSTERS

Limit one dozen per person.
Valid with purchase of a beverage.

SIPS

\$8 SPRITZ O'CLOCK

Limoncello, Aperol Spritz, or Hugo Spritz

\$10 SHRIMP & DIP TRIO

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\$16 SLUSHES & SANGRIA FLIGHT

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AT SONNY D'S

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State senator sentenced on drunk driving allegations

BY STAN MADDUX

An Indiana state lawmaker from Michiana Shores has been sentenced for drunk driving. Under a plea agreement, state Sen. Mike Bohacek must serve one year on probation for Class A misdemeanor operating while intoxicated.

A 20-day suspension of his driver's license was also imposed under terms of the guilty plea accepted Aug. 27 in LaPorte Superior Court 4 by Jeffrey Thode, a special judge from Porter County.

Thode agreed to preside over the case after all judges in LaPorte County recused themselves to avoid any appearance of impropriety since Bohacek's district includes parts of LaPorte as well as St. Joseph, Starke and Marshall counties.

Bohacek must also complete a substance abuse evaluation and take part in any recommended therapy.

On Jan. 24, police said officers were notified about a man later identified as Bohacek stumbling out of his 2023 Dodge Charger with an Indiana State Senator license plate on it outside Panda Express in Michigan City.

Officers were also told the man appeared intoxicated while ordering food inside the restaurant.

Police said Bohacek left before responding officers arrived, but his car was soon located turning onto U.S. 20 and stopped when clocked at 62 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Bohacek denied consuming alcohol, telling an officer in slurred speech that he was short on sleep after driving from Indianapolis.

He began heading home after the state legislature in session at the time convened

for the weekend.

Police said Bohacek was still seated in his car when he began eating food and consuming a beverage but stopped at the request of the officer.

He later spilled some of his food and drink over his shirt and pants before refusing a certified breathalyzer test to measure his blood alcohol content.

He was transported to a hospital where he agreed to take the breath test. Instead, the officer chose to have a sample of blood taken from his arm.

His alleged blood alcohol level was over three times the .08 percent legal limit.

Bohacek, who was given a ride home, was not arrested right away because the Indiana constitution prohibits state lawmakers from being taken into custody while the legislature is in session except for treason, a felony or breach of peace.

After this year's legislative session ended in late April, a warrant was sought for his arrest, but he was allowed to turn himself in the next month on a summons ordering him into court to answer to the allegations.

Bohacek, who has not spoken publicly about the allegations, did not respond again when asked to comment on his sentencing.

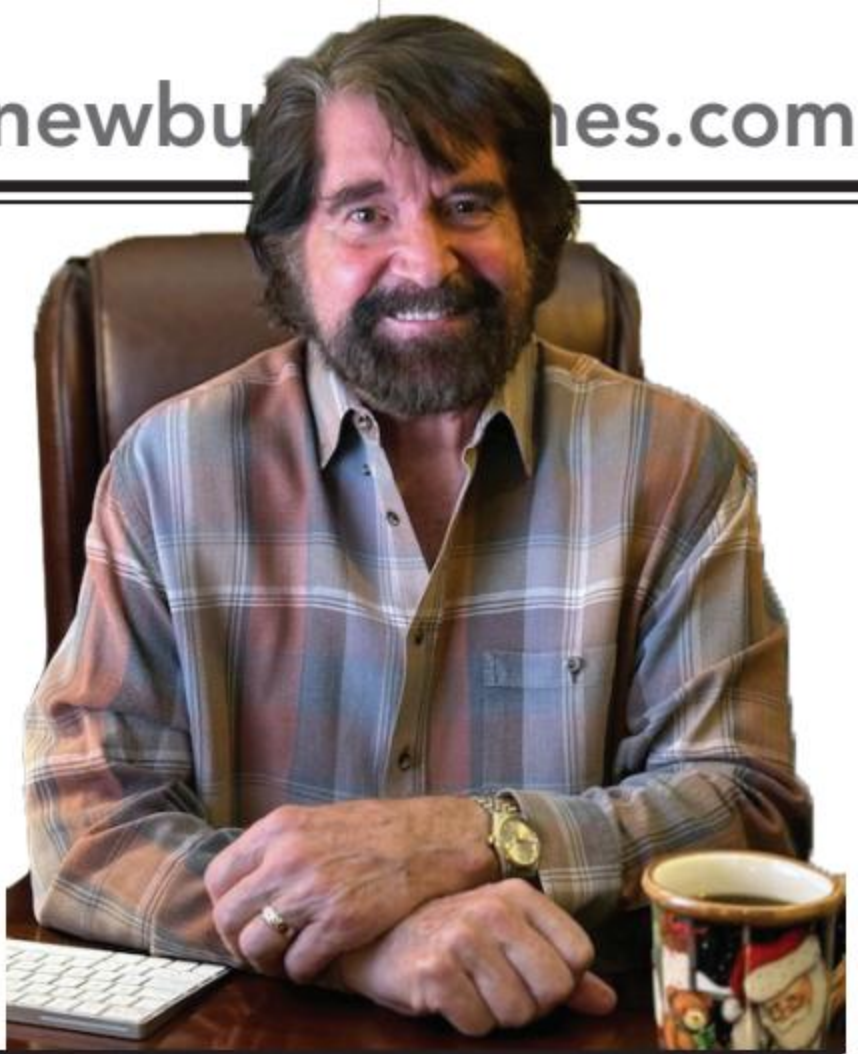
He's been a state senator since November of 2016.

Until sentencing, Bohacek was allowed to keep driving as long as he used an ignition interlock device ordered installed on his car.

Drivers must blow into the device, which allows a vehicle to start only if alcohol is not detected in the breath.

A Writer's Life... DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER



It's showtime!!! Reflections at 30,000 feet When I got to Cleveland Hopkins Airport for the flight back to L.A., I didn't try to swing an upgrade to first. I was too drained to marshal the effort. As I squeezed into a middle seat, between two fellow passengers, I regretted not having tried.

I didn't know it while it was happening, but the meeting with Those Characters From Cleveland's execs was draining. I'd bet Andy, sitting in first class on a different flight, wasn't nearly as drained as me. First off, after years in the business, he was accustomed to meetings and knew what it took to get through them. Also, he wasn't an active participant in this one. Rather, he was laying back to see how I'd fare.

His brief kudos after the meeting told me I'd done well. I was filling a purpose for Andy and Jean. Writers came and went. Some were productive for a year or two and, for one reason or another, fell by the wayside. Others lasted for 10 or more years. A handful made it for the long haul.

I would be one who would last for decades. Although I knew I was talented, I'd be the first to admit there were writers who were as talented as me. Today, in the present, long after my Cleveland meeting, 40 years after I wrote my first script for The Littles followed by twelve hundred more episodes of television, I'll be the first to admit I'm not even in the same galaxy as Quentin Tarentino, Spike Lee, James Cameron, Aaron Sorkin, Greta Gerwig and others. As Jean Chalopin once told me when I brought up Jeffrey Scott, I shouldn't even be allowed to say their names. (I'm joking.)

And yet...yet...

Here in the present, I think about

how during great times and not-so-great times, throughout my initial ascendancy in the world of television, then the devastation of being fired from my job, then my rise back up from that devastation and the ups and downs and all arounds in this crazy business called 'show', how I've not only survived...I've thrived. (I don't usually write 63 word sentences but there was a lot to convey.)

Part of the reason is that my skillsets goes beyond writing. The creative genius Jean Chalopin regarded me as being in a single dimension – just a writer. Yes, I'm a writer. But I'm also a businessman – always have, always will be. I know the consummate businessman Andy Heyward recognized that after he had put me through a few tests. It was why he would later acknowledge it at a dark moment in time when I badly needed to hear it.

You see, I come from a mercantile family. Early on, I learned how to navigate the world of business. And, back in 1984, on that flight from Cleveland, I realized being a writer but also someone who was business-savvy was pretty rare.

That came to me as the pilot announced through the speakers that he was turning off the fasten seatbelts sign so we could move around the cabin. After this trip to Cleveland, I was free to move around the entertainment industry's cabin. Andy saw it in Judy Price's office and in Those Character's From Cleveland's conference room. He knew I was a creative type who also happened to know business and, because I did, it was safe for me to go to meetings with toy companies and broadcasters. I had worth and I had value.

At last, I had really arrived.

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SEPTEMBER 4-10, 2025
AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

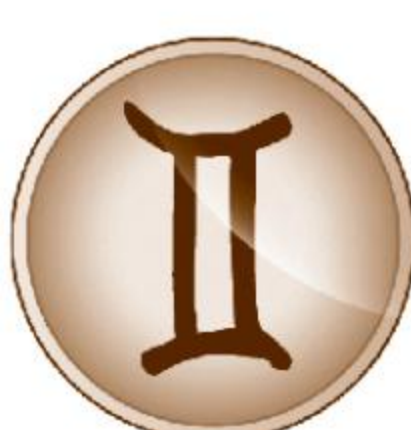


Prepare for a clash between family and partners this week. Your current relationship or status may be somewhat unconventional or has progressed faster than some are comfortable with. This is the time for you go out in to find what's right for you personally and communicate that with kindness.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



This is the time to meditate on some fox energy. Listening and watching, while maintaining your distance. Pay attention to what others are saying and doing. Learn patterns without getting caught up in them. Silence and stealth are your strengths now. Avoid outburst by taking notes and not reacting.



GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

It's time to put your heart into things. If you don't feel truly in line with and excited about the work you are doing, then it's time to change. Take time out to get in touch with what truly resonates with your calling in life. The question is are you being authentic or just a social phenomenon?

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



This is the time to commit to your own space and the sanctity of it. Be mindful of the energy you create for yourself. The vibe now is about finding your own journey and sticking with it. Trust that when you focus on what's important, fake social emergencies don't push you off path.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



There will be a deep dive into the taboo or things that are normally not talked about this week. Information that you would like to keep private really needs to come out now. Don't hold back because you are fearful or want to avoid drama. This is the time for calm confrontations and positive conflict resolution.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



There may be some social pushback this week due to differing ideas on finances and valuables. The important thing is how you stand with partners and close business associates rather, than John Q. Public. Put peacemaking efforts into relationships that are truly consequential not those based in social status.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



There is a feeling of having to push through barriers this week. Know that things will ultimately work out but that there are some details to be hammered out before you will accomplish your goals or complete projects. This is about finding the right people and information to coordinate with.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



There are some self-limiting beliefs or some self-sabotaging behavior that can be confronted very effectively right now. This is the time to grab the bull by the horns and make some changes. Take an honest, yet kind assessment of yourself and honor it. Your will power is strong now.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



You may not realize how connected you are to a social group or group consciousness until you are confronted with the dark side of their reasoning this week. It may have been innocuous until now. Pull back and protect your privacy. Be more discerning with who and about what you are sharing.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



Things may have appeared to be running smoothly with partners until now. Prepare for a little rough patch week as you two start to put plans into action. Know that there is a trial-and-error period happening here with a definite learning curve, where things will ultimately run smoother with time.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Getting the right information is important when it comes to your health and beauty routines. Don't just follow advice from anyone, get a second opinion and only trust reliable sources. Invest in things that not only have been proven effective, but feel right when you meditate on them.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



This is the time to bring things into existence. Be mindful of your manifesting powers now and focus on the positive aspects of life. Keep your interests and ideas to yourself but always keep an eye out for opportunities to advance and expand on them with integrity, please.



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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1				2		
						7	4	8
7		4						5
	1	8	4	6				
	6		7					9
		5	2		9			
								7
			9		8	5	2	
	2					8	1	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Ancient race of Japan
5 Ship's wheel
9 Socialist Labor Party (abbr.)
12 Ancient Gr. city
13 Large lake
14 Hawaiian assembly
15 Pirate (2 words)
17 Experimental (abbr.)
18 Corinthians (abbr.)
19 Barons
21 Here lies buried (abbr.)
24 Jap. fish
26 Border for a picture
27 Talk stupidly
29 Promise to pay
31 Dog salmon
34 Roman number 1102
35 Celestial body
36 Scandinavian navigator
37 National (abbr.)
38 Multilateral Nuclear Force (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Bronze money
2 Capable of (suf.)
3 Nat'l Intelligence Authority (abbr.)
4 United States Reserve Corps (abbr.)
5 Judaism
6 Tarzan creator's initials
7 Claim
8 Lake near Sea of Galilee
9 Protected
10 Extravagant
11 Playing card spots
16 Out (Scot.)
20 Roasts
21 Ode
22 Jackfruit
23 Gear
25 Demeter's other name
28 Aviator
30 Unjustly
32 Twirl (Scot.)
33 Expert pilots
41 Doctor
43 African sorcery (abbr.)
45 Sheep's cries
46 Descry
47 Cloud (pref.)
49 Mere
52 Narrow inlet of a river
53 Portuguese territory in India
54 Man's name: abbr.
55 Relative (abbr.)

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59					60				61			

Tis sometimes the height of wisdom to feign stupidity.
— Cato

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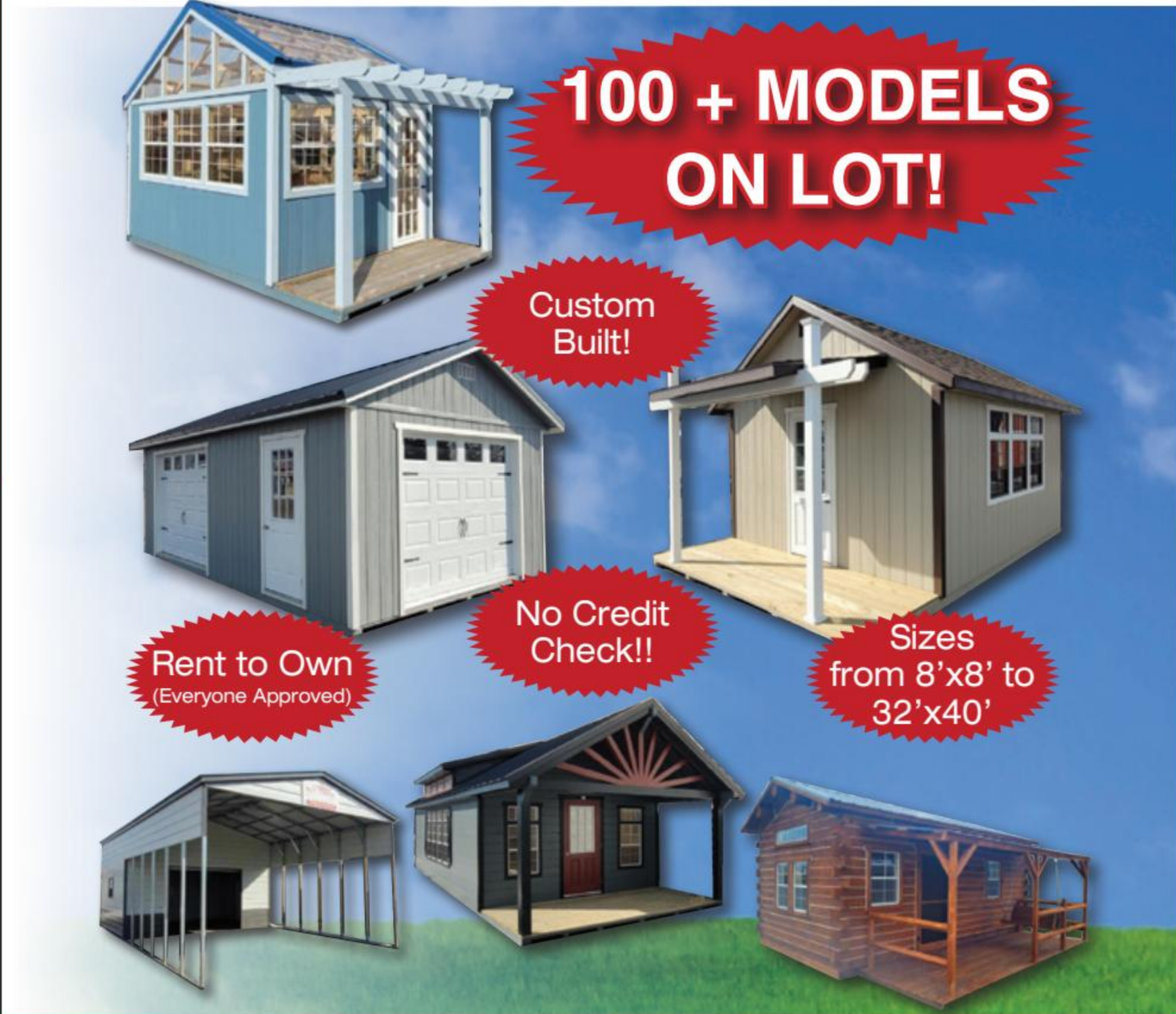
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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

BUILDING YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

With the cooler weather on the rise, so are colds, flu, respiratory infections and other bugs. Your immune system is your first line of defense against these pathogens. Having a strong immunity is vital to fight off illness and disease.

Your immune system is intelligent, and changes throughout your life. Such as aging, exposure to bacteria, viruses, and other microbes. These exposures actually teach your immune system to recognize the germs later in life and eliminate them. However, with so many new strains being introduced, we have a bigger fight on our hands.

Some people have stronger constitutional immune systems, so they are resistant to more types of infections. Others of us have to work extra hard to keep our immune systems strong and working for us.

What can you do to ensure your immune protection this season? We know there are great connections between lifestyle choices and strong immune systems. Healthy living is important to keep it in check. Immune strength comes from the way that you are treating your body. What you put into it, and also what you remove. It is not just food, but also what you take into your mind and visual. A constant negative mindset will impact your immunity. Mantras of positive thoughts and affirmations have been proven to increase your overall health and immunity.

I go back to the Laws of Nature to assist in all aspects of health. When you build one body system through proper living, it is a domino effect.

All body systems fall into behaving as well. What are the laws of Nature? Good Nutrition. Getting the nutrients needed for a healthy body. Living foods, cutting out processed foods, especially sugar. Exercise. We need to move our bodies to keep the lymphatics and channels of elimination open. Water. We need hydration to every cell for proper health. Sunlight. This is where we get our Vitamin D and store it up for our immunity. Mindset. Learning to keep positive attitudes to reduce stress and tension. Fresh Air. Improves respiratory function, allowing oxygen exchange and detoxification to our bodies. Sleep. Allows us to restore and recharge. Lack of sleep reduces natural killer cell activity, which increases the risk for cancer and viral infections. It also increases the risk of infections. Faith. Essential for navigation through life, providing hope, trust and sense of purpose in every day experiences.

It goes without saying, to not smoke, and drink less alcohol. Alcohol disrupts immune pathways that impair the body's ability to defend against infection. It also contributes to organ damage and slows recover from illness.

Doing some of these principles will help you in prevention and even reversal in many of our Standard American Diseases. Cancer, Diabetes, Arthritis, Heart disease, autoimmune issues and such.

Health is our greatest wealth and is available to all of us. Health is also our Responsibility. We can't give it away, or expect someone to "Fix" our Health. We have to take control. Build your health, and your immune system will fall into order.



PET OF THE WEEK



OZZY

Ozzy is the fluffiest, and most oddly, the chill boy in his litter. He plays well with other band mates, and is friendly with children. Ozzy will take a nap after a trip on the crazy train, but might meow "SHARON" when you least expect it. Ozzy, of course, runs at full speed, loves his toys and meal time...just no bats for this cat! He is about two-months-old, neutered and his vaccinations are up-to-date. Make Ozzy part of your home today.

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New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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Jason Sutton (right) leads the dancers at Sonny D's



Sharon Haynes (left) line dances with others at Sonny D's



Sunset Coast Country Dancers popularizing line dancing in southwest Michigan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Jason Sutton's and Sharon Hayne's efforts to spread their appreciation for line dancing to this corner of southwest Michigan have just begun.

It started three years ago, when Sutton decided he wanted to dance.

"I hired Sharon, my partner, to teach me how to dance-partner dance and swing dance and to try to two-step," he said.

While attending a conference, they saw people line dancing.

"We said, 'Wow, we've really got to get into this, we've got to teach people – they really like it, it's healthy, it challenges your brain, and people are really starting to gravitate to it more than ever,'" Sutton, a real estate agent who lives in Sawyer, said.

So, Sutton and Haynes founded Sunset Coast Country Dancers. When they started teaching line dancing in

April 2023, they only knew 10 dances. When 50 people showed up, they set out on a journey to "learn as many line dances as possible," Sutton said.

Today, they know around 200-250 line dances. This past January, they also opened a studio, Sunset Coast Dance Studio, at 5360 Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville, Michigan, where people can take a class. Per its website, the studio is "dedicated to promoting Country Line, Pattern Partner and Country Swing styles."

Sutton said those who take a class can feel more confident when they come to an event, such as the one in the Speakeasy at Sonny D's in New Buffalo Friday, Aug. 29. Every Tuesday, they hold an event at Union + Social Event Venue in St. Joseph, Michigan, where they teach four or five dances.

Sutton said they have

anywhere from 60 to 100 people per month taking classes for full weeks during the month. Beside himself and Haynes, they also have three other instructors.

Sunset Coast dancers have performed at various events: the Three Oaks' Flag Day Parade in June, the Berrien County Youth Fair and Michiana Humane Society's "Fur Ball" fundraiser at White Oak Farm in Michigan City last fall.

There's a bigger goal up the pipeline: Eventually, Sutton said they'd like to build a "massive bar" – a "country honky tonk" – on the three acres next to the studio in Stevensville called "Neon Dream."

He'd like to start clearing the land and, hopefully, break ground on it either by late winter or early spring.

Haynes, who said that the closest venue for line dancing,

Cowboy Up, is over an hour away in Mendon, said that they hope to teach all forms of country dancing – line dance, two-step and country swing.

"We're hoping to open the biggest dance floor in the Midwest, north of Nashville," she said.

Line dancing has changed since the 1990s, Sutton said.

"It's not just the electric slide, it's hundreds of dances we dance to Pitbull, we dance to country music, we dance to rock – there's just all sorts of avenues of line dancing these days," he said.

Sutton said they pick up different dances on Tik Tok and Instagram. Sunset Coast's Tick Tok currently has 270,000 views.

After going into hibernation for a while, Haynes said that line dancing is making a comeback.

Starting Sunset Coast Country Dancers has given her friends that she didn't have three years ago.

"It brings people together and I think it's just a wanting to return to foundational things – getting off your phone and just driving the backroads and not being in a rush and enjoying nature...We're doing this to build a community and to give the whole area, all these people, a place to connect," she said.

Sutton said he just wanted to create a space where "people can have fun dancing."

"There's a saying, 'You can't hate someone you just danced with' and really, there's not a whole lot of hate in the dance world," he said.

For more information on Sunset Coast Country Dancers, including classes and upcoming events, visit sunsetccd.com. Sunset Coast Country Dancers can also be found on Instagram and Facebook.

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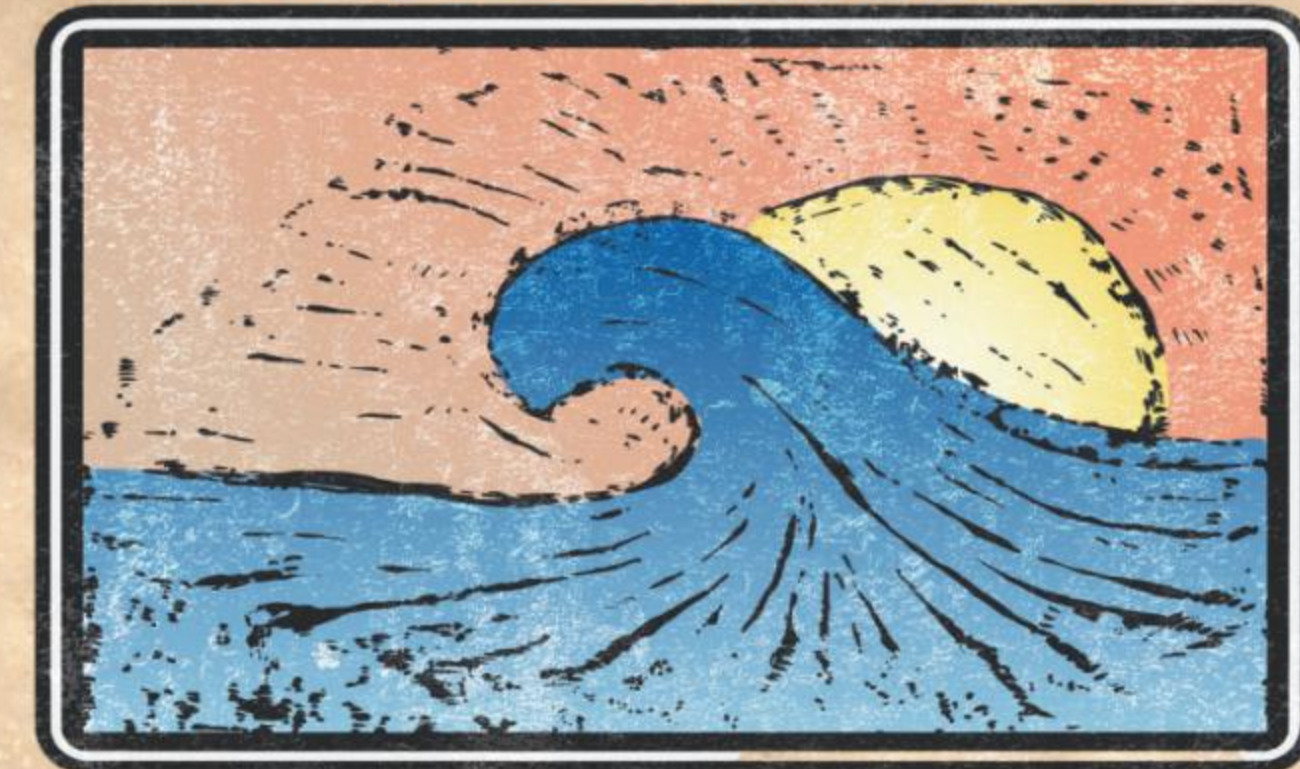
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